Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /083 W ------ 098475

R 102104Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5614

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 0476

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJ: US-CANADIAN MEETING ON BILATERAL ENERGY ISSUES

REF: STATE 027074

1. ON FEBRUARY 7, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS,
AMBASSADOR AND ECON COUNSELOR CONVEYED TO NUTT
(DIR-GEN, WESTERN HEMISPHERE BUREAU, EXTAFF) AND
MCDOUGALL (DIR-GEN, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
BUREAU, EXTAFF) U.S. ANNOYANCE AT LAST-MINUTE
CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 10 MEETING ON
ENERGY ISSUES. BOTH GOC OFFICIALS IMPLED THAT
MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED ON GOC SIDE WITHOUT
PROPER CLEARANCE AND ON TOO SHORT NOTICE AND AS
A RESULT "BACKFIRED." DECISION TO POSTPONE
HAS BEEN TAKEN AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

2. MISS MCDOUGALL SAID SHE WAS SORRY MEETING HAD BEEN POSTPONED. GOC IS FULLY AWARE THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO DISCUSS AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT IS WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RELIEVE REAL DIFFICULTIES FACED BY NORTHERN TIER REFINERIES. PROBLEM, SHE SAID, WAS THAT "PEOPLE WHO COUNT" CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED BY OTHER MATTERS -- TWO-BILLION

DOLLAR SYNCRUDE "POKER GAME" IN PARTICULAR -AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS ON ISSUES. THEREFORE
GOC DEL WOULD HAVE HAD STRICTLY A LISTENING BRIEF
IF FEBRUARY 10 MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE AND SOME ON
GOC SIDE THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE COUNTEPRODUCTIVE.
MISS MCDOUGALL SAID SHE HOPED MEETING COULD BE
RESCHEDULED "IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE" AND
REITERATED GOC DESIRE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ISSUES.
PORTER

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